

Completed Pollution Prevention Project Case Study

United States Department of Energy
Office of Environmental Management
Fact Sheet

TA-54 Work Control Low Level Waste Avoidance Los Alamos National Laboratory

Original Problem

In the past, contractors who came to TA-54 to perform work in Area "G", a radiological control area, often brought extra equipment and packaging with them to the job. When the excess cardboard, wooden pallets, plastic wrapping, and supplies touched the ground, they became suspect low level waste and had to be scanned for contamination in a time-consuming process before they could leave the site.

The Project Solution

New rules were imposed on workers who entered Area "G". The work control program forces each job to be carefully planned in advance so that a list of necessary equipment can be developed. The workers are now allowed to only bring those items into Area "G". A secure area just outside Area "G" with trash and recycling bins has been set up to store extra equipment and collect sanitary waste.

Value of Improvement

So far approximately 70 cubic yards of pallets, cardboard, and trash have been collected in the secure area, creating a potential savings of about \$35,000 since all of that material could have become low level waste. In addition, the workforce is becoming better educated about the goals and processes of pollution prevention.

Lifecycle Waste Reduction	
Lifecycle Waste Reduction	~70 cubic yds.
Commencement Date	1999
Project Useful Life (Years)	Indefinite



DOE Monetary Benefits

Total Project Cost	NA
Lifecycle Savings	~\$35,000 to date
Return on Investment	NA

Benefits At-A-Glance

- Saves time for employees who scan the material exiting Area "G" for radiation.
- Creates a workforce that is more aware of pollution prevention.
- Reduces the potential for creating low level waste.

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	Summary Data
Priority Area:	Waste Minimization Projects
Project Type:	Source Reduction
Total Project Cost:	NA
Lifecycle Savings:	potential savings of ~\$35,000 to date
Implementing Group:	FWO-SWO
Benefiting Group:	FWO-SWO
Useful Life Years:	Indefinite
Return on Investment:	NA
Lifecycle Waste Reduction:	~70 cubic yards to date
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